[Mr. A. R. Knapp] [14th December 1923

"In regard to the other point relating to the small item of Rs. 1,080, I may say that my hon. Friend is entitled to ask why the hon. the Minister could not have spent the amount on his own schools. But in regard to the item of Rs. 12,320, he could not have done so because that was accidentally put in the Budget under a Transferred head instead of in a head of mine."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"In regard to item (i), I am fully satisfied, and I may supplement the remarks of the hon. the Home Member and give some more information to him. In the year 1920-21, when the formation of the Agency was proposed, some portions of the Agency were under the management of the taluk boards and they were asked to run the institutions in those places till the 1st of October 1921, and Government promised to pay the taluk boards that amount later on. That old debt is now proposed to be discharged by the Government to the taluk boards. I now feel that that is justifiable and that it is only a misplacement of figures in the Transferred Half in the Budget, and therefore I do not question it.

"With regard to the second item, the hon. the Home Member was kind enough to state that I am right in questioning the transference, and he left it to be justified by the hon. the Minister for Education, and his silence when that was suggested by the hon. the Home Member merely shows that he pleads guilty to the surrender of the amount."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"I was keeping quiet since this morning as I was not feeling well. Now, why should I remain mute especially in matters of this sort? As far as the depressed classes are concerned, education alone will improve them. I do not know if any hon. Member will object to it. Certainly the members of the depressed classes are now being kept in utter ignorance. Therefore, Sir, I hope that the whole House will unanimously support the Motion. Delay, I consider, is very dangerous. Therefore, Sir, I appeal to the hon. Members of this House to give their unanimous support if they are genuine in ameliorating the condition of the depressed classes. I will politely put it like that without wasting much time of the Council. I again appeal to hon. Members of this Council to support the Motion."

2-45 p.m.

The Amendment was by leave withdrawn.

The original Motion was then put and carried and the Grant was made.

IV

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AS PRINCIPAL OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Council then resumed discussion on the Resolution of Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar for the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture as Principal of the Agricultural College.*

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"My hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, moves that in appointing principals selection

* That this Council recommends to the Government that one of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture, who is a Graduate in Agriculture and possesses the necessary district experience, be appointed as the Principal of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore.

should be made from those holding the position of Deputy Directors of Agriculture with the additional qualifications of being a graduate in agriculture and having district experience. So far as the principle of the Motion is concerned, I am one with him. It is highly necessary that a man with district experience should be posted as Principal because he is likely to know the needs of the students who come from the various portions of the Presidency. Of the eleven deputy directors who are now in service, six are now on probation, one is on foreign service, one has poor educational qualification, one is vacant, one other is a Director of Agriculture and the last man is a professor of agriculture and he is very junior in scale. In fact he is very low down in the scale. Other things being equal, we will certainly prefer for the place a graduate having district experience. Such a man not being available, we have gone for the best man although he is a research man. As Principal he has to wield power and sway over his research colleagues also. It is, therefore, necessary that a senior man should always be the Principal. If the deputy directors come up to that level in course of time, their claims will certainly be considered and one of them appointed as Principal."

Mr. P. ANJANEYALU :—" May I know if the professor of agriculture was at any time the Deputy Director of Agriculture also ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" He is borne on the cadre of deputy directors."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, the hon. the Minister for Development has conceded the principle underlying the Motion before the House. If so, I expect it is up to him to carry the principle into operation, especially as it is one which affects the welfare of the students. The Coimbatore College has been established at the expense of a large amount of money and year after year we are incurring a large recurring expenditure also. I asked in the course of my speech to furnish me with the figures of admission each year and I am told that the admission is about six each year. If so there is no justification for incurring so much expenditure on that institution. After all what is the Minister's objection to appoint a competent man as Principal of the college ? It is not that the deputy directors are not competent to hold the post, but because they are juniors. Is that a sin on their part and can that be a reason why a senior should be inflicted on the students though not competent ? In making these appointments the interests of the students and the country should be borne in mind. There are in this institution a number of officers who are competent and I do not mind who is appointed. There is the mycologist, the lecturing botanist, the lecturing chemist, and the professor of agriculture. The professor of agriculture is intimately connected with the students more than any other professor. He is the man who works with the students every morning in the fields and in the day, in the class rooms and elsewhere. He is one who is more or less in charge of the students and he goes along with them for excursions. That is the kind of man who ought to be in charge of these institutions. The present Principal is one who ought to do his work in seclusion. To inflict on him the administrative work and take away the legitimate work from him is a proposition which I think will not be acceptable to any one in this House,

Well, the hon. the Minister may at least take the earliest opportunity that offers itself before him and appoint a suitable man for the place in the interests of the students and the country at large."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" That is the sum and substance of what I said. I shall bear his request in mind."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I suppose the hon. Minister is one who says little and does much. On that supposition I accept his assurance and withdraw the Resolution." (Cheers.)

The Resolution was by leave withdrawn.

SUSPENSION OF THE ENHANCED RATE OF LAND REVENUE IN THE TANJORE DISTRICT.

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

12. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the collection of land revenue at the enhanced rate in the Tanjore district from January* 1924, *be suspended for one year at least till the principles of land revenue settlement are embodied in legislation.*

3 p.m.

" Sir, most of the things which I will have to say on this Resolution have already been discussed yesterday and on two or three occasions in the last Council, and the principle underlying this Resolution, that the resettlement coming into force as the result of the resettlement operations ought to be postponed till the principles governing the resettlement are put on a legislative basis, has been accepted by this House by a very large majority yesterday, so that I think it is not necessary for me to dilate again on the question why the principles of settlement ought to be put on a legislative basis. It has been accepted by a very large majority and I now propose to refer to a few facts which may, I submit, influence hon. Members of this House to decide on the very same principle. I will give the House a few further grounds which will make them go to the extent of saying that this principle ought to be applied to every district. There is a general impression, and I do not say it is absolutely unfounded, that Tanjore is one of the most fertile districts of this Presidency. I do not say it is not. It is a fertile district and compared with many other districts it is more fertile than the others. But at the same time we have to consider the rate of taxation we have to pay in the Tanjore district and how it compares with the land-tax paid in other districts. In this connection I should like to go a little further back, that is, to the period of the last resettlement operations, about the year 1891. The total assessment paid by the Tanjore district at that time was about 45 lakhs. The settlement period had come and the correspondence between the Madras Government and the Government of India began from the year 1888 and the Madras Government thought that Tanjore was very highly taxed even then and decided that in any event the tax ought not to be increased in that district That was the recommendation of the Madras Government; but the Government of India thought otherwise; they thought, perhaps, for the purpose of squeezing out the provincial revenues as contribution to the Indian Exchequer, that settlement should go on and they decided to increase the tax in that district by 18 lakhs. The Madras Government did not approve of the action of the Government of India and said that if there was to be any increase at all, it ought not to go beyond 11 lakhs; and actually the increase came to about